

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
WESTERN DIVISION**

BARBARA JANE FRECK, et al.,)	
individually and on behalf of all others)	
similarly situated,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. 4:20-CV-00043-BCW
)	
CERNER CORPORATION, et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	
)	

PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER

This Action involves claims for alleged violations of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, 29 U.S.C. § 1001, et seq. (“ERISA”), with respect to the Cerner Corporation Foundations Retirement Plan (“Plan”). The terms of the Settlement are set out in the Settlement Agreement, fully executed as of February 17, 2021, by counsel on behalf of the Named Plaintiffs, all Class Members, and Defendants, respectively.¹

Pursuant to the Named Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement, Preliminary Certification of a Class for Settlement Purposes, Approving Form and Manner of Settlement Notice, Preliminarily Approving Plan of Allocation, and Scheduling a Date for a Fairness Hearing filed on February 18, 2021, the Court preliminarily considered the Settlement to determine, among other things, whether the Settlement is sufficient to warrant the issuance of notice to members of the proposed Settlement Class. Upon reviewing the Settlement

¹ All capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Order shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the Settlement Agreement.

Agreement, due notice having been given and the Court having been fully advised in the premises, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. **Preliminary Certification of the Settlement Class.** In accordance with the Settlement Agreement, and pursuant to Rules 23(a) and (b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, this Court hereby preliminarily certifies the following class (“Settlement Class”):

All persons who were participants in or beneficiaries of the Plan at any time from January 21, 2014 through the date of entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, inclusive. Excluded from the Class are Defendants (and their Beneficiaries) and any individuals who were members of the Compensation Committee or the Retirement Plan Committee from January 21, 2014 through the date of the Settlement Agreement, inclusive (and their Beneficiaries).

2. Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, and for settlement purposes only, the Court preliminarily finds that:

(a) as required by FED. R. CIV. P. 23(a)(1), the Settlement Class is ascertainable from records kept with respect to the Plan and from other objective criteria, and the Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable.

(b) as required by FED. R. CIV. P. 23(a)(2), there are one or more questions of law and/or fact common to the Settlement Class.

(c) as required FED. R. CIV. P. 23(a)(3), the claims of the Named Plaintiffs are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class that the Named Plaintiffs seek to certify.

(d) as required by FED. R. CIV. P. 23(a)(4), that the Named Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Settlement Class in that: (i) the interests of the Named Plaintiffs and the nature of the alleged claims are consistent with those of the Settlement Class members; and (ii) there appear to be no conflicts between or among the Named Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class.

(e) as required by FED. R. CIV. P. 23(b)(1), the prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Settlement Class would create a risk of: (i) inconsistent or varying adjudications as to individual Settlement Class members that would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the claims asserted in this Action; or (ii) adjudications as to individual Settlement Class members that, as a practical matter, would be dispositive of the interests of the other members not parties to the individual adjudications, or substantially impair or impede the ability of such persons to protect their interests.

(f) as required by FED. R. CIV. P. 23(g), Class Counsel are capable of fairly and adequately representing the interests of the Settlement Class, and that Class Counsel: (i) have done appropriate work identifying or investigating potential claims in the Action; (ii) are experienced in handling class actions; and (iii) have committed the necessary resources to represent the Settlement Class.

3. For the purposes of settlement only, the Court preliminarily appoints the Named Plaintiffs Barbara Jane Freck, Gloria Robinson, Jaleeza Owens, Lynn Muserelli, Paul Capello, Jim Helton, and Joshua Clark as Class Representatives for the Settlement Class and Capozzi Adler, P.C., and Foulston Siefkin LLP as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class.

4. **Preliminary Approval of Proposed Settlement.** The Settlement Agreement is hereby preliminarily approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court preliminarily finds that:

a) The Settlement was negotiated vigorously and at arm's-length, under the auspices of the Mediator, by Defense Counsel, on the one hand, the Named Plaintiffs and Class Counsel on behalf of the Settlement Class, on the other hand;

b) Named Plaintiffs and Class Counsel had sufficient information to evaluate the

settlement value of the Action and have concluded that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate;

c) If the Settlement had not been achieved, Named Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class, faced the expense, risk, and uncertainty of protracted litigation;

d) The amount of the Settlement of four-million and fifty-thousand U.S. dollars (USD \$4,050,000.00) is fair, reasonable, and adequate, taking into account the costs, risks, and delay of trial and appeal. The method of distributing the Class Settlement Amount is efficient and requires no filing of claims. The Settlement terms related to attorneys' fees do not raise any questions concerning fairness of the Settlement, and there are no agreements, apart from the Settlement, required to be considered under FED. R. CIV. P. 23(e)(2)(C)(iv). The Class Settlement Amount is within the range of settlement values obtained in similar cases;

e) At all times, the Named Plaintiffs and Class Counsel have acted independently of Defendants and in the interest of the Settlement Class; and

f) The proposed Plan of Allocation is fair, reasonable, and adequate.

5. **Establishment of Qualified Settlement Fund.** A common fund is agreed to by the Parties in the Settlement Agreement and is hereby established and shall be known as the "Settlement Fund." The Settlement Fund shall be a "qualified settlement fund" within the meaning of Treasury Regulations § 1.468-1(a) promulgated under Section 468B of the Internal Revenue Code. The Settlement Fund shall be funded and administered in accordance with terms of the Settlement, in particular Article IV.

6. **Fairness Hearing.** A hearing is scheduled for **July 22, 2021 at 9:00am at the U.S. Courthouse in Kansas City, Missouri** to make a final determination, concerning among other things:

- Any objections from Class Members to the Settlement or any aspects of it.
- Whether the Settlement merits final approval as fair, reasonable, and adequate;
- Whether the Action should be dismissed with prejudice pursuant to the terms of the Settlement;
- Whether Class Counsel adequately represented the Settlement Class for purposes of entering into and implementing the Settlement;
- Whether the proposed Plan of Allocation should be granted final approval; and
- Whether Class Counsel's application(s) for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and Case Contribution Awards to the Named Plaintiffs are fair and reasonable, and should be approved.

7. **Settlement Notice.** The Court approves the form of Notice attached as Exhibit A to the Settlement Agreement. The Court finds that such form of notice fairly and adequately: (a) describes the terms and effects of the Settlement Agreement, the Settlement, and the Plan of Allocation; (b) notifies the Settlement Class that Class Counsel will seek attorneys' fees and litigation costs from the Settlement Fund, payment of the costs of administering the Settlement out of the Settlement Fund, and for a Case Contribution Award for the Named Plaintiffs for their service in such capacity; (c) gives notice to the Settlement Class of the time and place of the Fairness Hearing; and (d) describes how the recipients of the Notice may object to any of the relief requested.

8. **Settlement Administrator.** The Court hereby approves the appointment of Analytics as the Settlement Administrator for the Settlement. The Court directs that the Settlement Administrator shall:

- By no later than **April 5, 2021** cause the Notice, with such non-substantive modifications thereto as may be agreed upon by the Parties, to be provided by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to the last known address of each Class Member provided by the Recordkeeper (or its designee), unless an updated address is obtained by the Settlement Administrator through its efforts to verify the last known address provided by the Recordkeeper (or its designee). In the event the Parties agree to, and make, any changes to the approved Notice, whether substantive or nonsubstantive, the Parties shall file a copy of the Notice in the form it is distributed to the class. The Settlement Administrator shall use commercially reasonable efforts to locate any Class Member whose Settlement Notice is returned and re-send such documents one additional time.
- By no later than **April 5, 2021** cause the Notice to be published on the website identified in the Settlement Notice, www.CernerERISASettlement.com, which will also host and make available copies of all Settlement-related documents, including the Settlement Agreement.
- The Court finds that the contents of the Notice and the process described herein and in the Settlement are the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and satisfy the requirements of Rule 23(c) and Due Process.

9. **Petition for Attorneys' Fees, Litigation Costs and Case Contribution Awards.**

Any petition by Class Counsel for attorneys' fees, litigation costs and Case Contribution Awards to the Named Plaintiffs, and all briefs in support thereof, shall be filed no later than **June 18, 2021**.

10. **Briefs in Support of Final Approval of the Settlement.** Briefs and other documents in support of final approval of the Settlement shall be filed no later than **June 18, 2021.**

11. **Objections to Settlement.** Any Class Member or authorized recipient of any CAFA Notice may file an objection to the fairness, reasonableness, or adequacy of the Settlement, to any term of the Settlement Agreement, to the Plan of Allocation, to the proposed award of attorneys' fees and litigation costs, to the payment of costs of administering the Settlement out of the Settlement Fund, or to the request for a Case Contribution Award for the Named Plaintiffs. An objector must file with the Court a statement of his, her, or its objection(s), specifying the reason(s), if any, for each such objection made, including any legal support and/or evidence that the objector wishes to bring to the Court's attention or introduce in support of the objection(s). The address for filing objections with the Court is as follows:

Clerk of Court, Paige Wymore-Wynn
Charles Evans Whittaker
United States Courthouse
400 E. 9th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106

Re: Barbara Jane Freck, et al., v. Cerner Corp., et al.,
Civil Action No. 4:20-cv-00043 (W.D. Mo.)

The objector or his, her, or its counsel (if any) must file the objection(s) and supporting materials with the Court and provide a copy of the objection(s) and supporting materials to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel at the addresses in the Notice no later than **July 1, 2021.** If an objector hires an attorney to represent him, her, or it for the purposes of making an objection pursuant to this paragraph, the objector's counsel should notify Class Counsel and Defense Counsel as soon as practicable and not later than **July 1, 2021.** Any member of the Settlement Class or other Person who does not timely file a written objection complying with the terms of

this paragraph shall be deemed to have waived, and shall be foreclosed from raising, any objection to the Settlement, and any untimely objection shall be barred. Responses to objections shall be filed with the Court no later than **July 16, 2021**. There shall be no reply briefs.

12. Any additional briefs the Parties may wish to file in support of the Settlement shall be filed no later than **July 16, 2021**.

13. **Appearance at Final Approval Hearing.** Any objector who files a timely, written objection in accordance with paragraph 11 above may also appear at the Fairness Hearing either in person or through qualified counsel retained at the objector's expense. Objectors or their attorneys intending to appear at the Fairness Hearing must file a notice of intention to appear (and, if applicable, the name, address, and telephone number of the objector's attorney) with the Court.

14. **Notice Expenses.** The expenses of printing, mailing, and publishing the Notice required herein shall be paid exclusively from the Qualified Settlement Fund.

15. **Parallel Proceedings.** Pending final determination of whether the Settlement Agreement should be approved, the Named Plaintiffs, every Class Member, and the Plan are prohibited and enjoined from directly, through representatives, or in any other capacity, commencing any action or proceeding in any court or tribunal asserting any of the Released Claims against the Released Parties, including Defendants.

16. **Continuance of Final Approval Hearing.** The Court reserves the right to continue the Fairness Hearing without further written notice to the Class Members and also may schedule the hearing to be done by telephone or video conference.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: March 5, 2021

/s Brian C. Wimes
JUDGE BRIAN C. WIMES
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT